

the principles in which he himself believed,
that is, Fruit-
fulness, Work, Truth, and Justice, all springing
from the
fundamental basis of Love.

" Lourdes " gave him occupation throughout
the winter of
1893-1894 It appeared first in the " Gil-Bias,"
which paid
fifty thousand francs for the serial rights, and
early in the
autumn of 1894 it was issued as a volume,¹
whereupon a
prelate of the papal household, a certain
Monseigneur Ri-
card, vicar-general of the diocese of Aix* in
Provence, arose
to answer Zola, which he did in a very
blundering way.²
The fathers of the Lourdes grotto also
attempted some di-
rect denials of Zola's accusations of greed and
imposture,
and being all powerful in the town prevented
the sale of
the book there, while as a crowning stroke of
condemnation
it was deferred to Home and promptly placed,
like some of
Zola's previous works, in the famous " Index
Librorum Pro-
Mbitorum." Once again, also, abusive letters
rained upon
the author, some emanating from deluded
believers in the
Lourdes miracles, and others from angry
priests and monks.
Several of those correspondents interlarded
their effusions
with the language of the gutter, while others
contented
themselves with briefly cursing the man who
presumed to
doubt the sanctity of the unfortunate
Bernadette, and the
virtues of the spring which the
Assumptionist Fathers
had turned into a river of gold. That money

was used in
part for the purpose of subsidising Leo XIII,
but the bulk
was employed in fighting the [French
Republic with the

1 "Lourdes," Paris, Charpeutier, 1894, 18mo, 598 pages.
Seventy thousand
sand copies sold on publication; one hundred and fifty-
fourth thousand in
1903.

^a " La Yraie Bernadette de Lourdes," Paris, 1894.